

Senate Joint Resolution 2001 - Introduced

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2001
BY BEALL

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1 A Joint Resolution urging the United States government to
2 renew its commitment to farmers, lower fuel prices, and the
3 environment by supporting a robust and sustainable renewable
4 fuel standard, and including effective date provisions.
5 WHEREAS, in accordance with the federal policy including
6 the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-58, the
7 United States government has demonstrated its commitment to
8 the long-term policy of increasing the production of clean
9 renewable fuels according to a renewable fuel standard commonly
10 referred to as the RFS, by enabling the increased domestic
11 production and use of renewable fuels, which include renewable
12 biofuels such as ethanol, biodiesel, and cellulosic and
13 advanced biofuels; and
14 WHEREAS, the renewable fuel standard provides the foundation
15 for reducing this nation's dependence on foreign sources of
16 oil, reducing the price of transportation fuels, reducing
17 transportation fuel emissions, increasing rural incomes,
18 encouraging the development and expansion of new advanced
19 biofuels, and consequently promoting economic growth; and
20 WHEREAS, the renewable fuel standard assists in bringing new
21 technologies to farmers and consumers, and points the country
22 in the direction of energy independence; and
23 WHEREAS, international turmoil has repeatedly caused
24 increased oil spikes and increased transportation costs for
25 consumers, including increased costs attributable to the
26 transportation of food and other goods; and
27 WHEREAS, biofuels reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
28 WHEREAS, Iowa's biofuels industry has added over eight
29 billion dollars to Iowa's economy and generated two billion
30 dollars in new household income; and
31 WHEREAS, approximately ninety thousand Iowa farmers support

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32 their families and reinvigorate rural communities through
33 innovative and high-tech agricultural production; and

34 WHEREAS, the United States environmental protection agency
35 is responsible for establishing and implementing the renewable
36 fuel standard, including the requirement that certain volumes
37 of various types of biofuels be blended in transportation fuels
38 each year; and

39 WHEREAS, the United States environmental protection agency
40 recently proposed reducing the volume levels of ethanol and
41 biodiesel in the renewable fuel standard, in direct conflict
42 with the statute; and

43 WHEREAS, the United States environmental protection agency's
44 proposal is estimated to cause the loss of thirty-seven
45 thousand four hundred ethanol-related jobs and the loss of
46 seven thousand five hundred biodiesel-related jobs; and

47 WHEREAS, the United States environmental protection agency's
48 proposal will cause a reduction in the price of corn below the
49 cost of production with a negative economic impact on Midwest
50 farm families, agribusinesses, and rural communities; and

51 WHEREAS, the United States environmental protection
52 agency's proposal will cause a substantial reduction in the
53 long-term investment in biofuels infrastructure and a reduction
54 in investments in further energy innovation for ethanol,
55 biodiesel, advanced biofuels, and cellulosic biofuels; NOW
56 THEREFORE,

57 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. The United States government is urged to
2 renew its commitment to farmers, lower fuel prices, and the
3 environment by supporting a robust and sustainable renewable
4 fuel standard and to use all efforts to meet the highest
5 possible renewable fuel volume requirements set forth in the
6 current renewable fuel standard in order to ensure that this
7 nation diversifies its energy portfolio.

8 Sec. 2. The Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
9 shall deliver copies of this joint resolution to the Honorable
10 Barack Obama, President of the United States, to the Honorable
11 Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the United States Environmental
12 Protection Agency, to the Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of
13 Agriculture of the United States, and to each member of Iowa's
14 congressional delegation.

15 Sec. 3. This Joint Resolution, being deemed of immediate
16 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

17 EXPLANATION

18 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
19 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

20 This joint resolution urges the United States government to
21 renew its commitment to farmers, lower fuel prices, and the
22 environment by supporting a robust and sustainable renewable
23 fuel standard (RFS) and use all efforts to meet the highest
24 possible renewable fuel volume requirements set forth in the
25 current RFS in order to ensure that this nation diversifies its
26 energy portfolio.

27 The joint resolution takes effect upon enactment, which
28 takes place after passage of the joint resolution by both
29 houses of the Iowa general assembly and upon approval by the
30 governor of the state of Iowa.